GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:259
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
SHARE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the share of Public and Private Sector Companies in providing Basic and Mobile telephone services in the country;

(b) whether in comparison to Private Sector, the share of Public Sector Companies is declining;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to face the competition from the private companies;

(e) whether the Government has any plan to ensure share of Public Sector Companies in providing this service; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) The share of Public sector and Private Sector Companies as on 30.09.2007 is as follows:

TELEPHONES	SHARE OF PUBLIC SECTOR	SHARE OF PRIVATE SECTOR
BASIC	90.58%	9.24%
MOBILE	17.76%	82.24%
TOTAL	29.35%	70.65%

(b) Yes, Sir. However, the subscriber base of Public Sector Companies has increased from 61.08 million as on 31.03.2006 to 72.98 million as on 30.09.2007.

(c) The decline in the share of public sector companies is because of the increasing competition and greater participation of the private telecom service providers.

(d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched many new and value-added services in its network such as:
1) In landline, Calling Line Identification is given to all customers free of charge and other features are provided to high-end users.
2) Matching tariffs are given to counter the private players in many areas.
3) The franchisee network is also being expanded and all Public Call Offices (PCOs) are also being converted into multi-utility telecom points where the customers can avail of the services of the company.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) BSNL has planned to add about 100 million telephone connections during next three years.